This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (twice amended) Method for enzymatic preparation of homogentisate (HMO) from ~~4-hydroxypyruvate~~ 4-hydroxyphenylpyruvate (HPP), characterized in that it consists in carrying out, in a suitable reaction medium, the following enzymatic reactions:

   - enzymatic conversion of HPP into 4-hydroxyphenylacetate (HPA) with a first suitable enzyme wherein said first suitable enzyme is a suitable HPP-oxidase, then
   - enzymatic conversion of HPA into HMO with a second suitable enzyme wherein said second suitable enzyme is a suitable HPA-hydroxylase,

   wherein said [method is] enzymatic reactions are carried out in the presence of a 4-hydroxyphenylpyruvate dioxygenase (HPPD) inhibitor in said suitable reaction medium.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended) Method according to Claim ~~2~~ 1, characterized in that the HPP-oxidase originates from bacteria which can grow on HPP as the only carbon source.

4. (currently amended) Method according to Claim ~~2~~ 1, characterized in that the HPP-oxidase originates from *Arthrobacter*.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) Method according to Claim ~~5~~ 1, characterized in that the HPA-hydroxylase originates from bacteria which can grow on HPA as the only carbon source.

7. (original) Method according to Claim 6, characterized in that the bacteria are chosen from *Pseudomonas acidovarans*, *Xanthobacter*, *Pseudomonas alcaligenes*, *Flavobacterium sp.*, *Bacillus subtillis*, *Nocardia sp.* DM1 and *Rhodococcus erythropolis*.

8. (currently amended) Method according to Claim ~~5~~ 1, characterized in that the HPA-hydroxylase is extracted from *Pseudomonas acidovarans*.

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (previously added) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that both enzymatic reactions are carried out in the same reaction medium containing HPP, the two suitable enzymes being present together at the same time in the reaction medium.

13. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the two suitable enzymes are introduced into the suitable reaction medium in the form of protein extracts, or alternatively they ~~can be~~ are produced in situ by suitable biological organisms.